

Reading Climate Change Partnership Guiding Principles and Governance Framework

This is a revised proposal, initially drafted by Poldervaart Associates, based on the discussions at the 27th April workshop event and further developed by a nominated working group on 24th June.

The Partnership

The Reading Climate Change Partnership is a sub group of the Reading Local Strategic partnership¹, informing the development of and delivering against the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Reading Climate Change Strategy. The Reading Climate Change Partnership will liaise with and participate in Climate Berkshire² and the Reading Diamond for Investment and Growth³

1. Mission

We will work in partnership across all sectors to deliver urgent appropriate action to mitigate and adapt to climate change in Reading

2. Strategic aims – WHAT

- a) Build a sustainable, low carbon economy in Reading, focussed on meeting local needs.
- b) Develop strategies that reduce carbon footprints, and support action towards resilience and adaptation through enabling behaviour change, education and collaboration.
- c) Across all sectors, bring about changes to organisational attitudes, policy and practice, supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.
- d) Provide a leadership role in relation to climate change.

¹ A Local Strategic Partnership is an overall partnership of people that brings together organisations from the public, private, community and voluntary sector within a local authority area, with the objective of improving people's quality of life

² Climate Berkshire is a climate change partnership for Berkshire, sitting under the sustainable prosperity group of the Berkshire Economic Strategy Board.

³ The 8 South East Diamonds of which Reading is one are areas that are held to have the concentrations of people employment, built assets, knowledge, transport, creativity, culture and diversity necessary to act as economic catalysts for the region as a whole.

3. Partnership operation - HOW

The partnership will achieve its mission and aims by:

- a) Ensuring that climate change mitigation and adaptation are integrated into the high level aims and delivery of the Reading Sustainable Community Strategy.
- b) Establish a Strategic Framework, including outcomes and specific targets, that provides a framework to inform the focus and activities of working groups to develop and deliver specific projects
- c) Building a citizen, business, public and voluntary consensus for [urgent and targeted] action
- d) Acting as a catalyst and attracting funding for climate change initiatives that require a collaborative / partnership approach across Reading.
- e) Supporting collaborative projects and working to maximise effective joint working across all sectors in relation to climate change.
- f) Being bold and considering radical and innovative solutions.
- g) Collaborating and networking outside Reading to share learning and establish best practice.
- h) Educating and engaging the public in the work of the Partnership.

4. Governance, structures & partnership process

a) ***A strategic partnership.***

The Reading Climate Change Partnership will be a partnership, not a discussion forum. That is, it will:

- Take strategic decisions which are implemented through the partner organisations and others
- Seek to align policies and pool resources to achieve more through the mainstream of partner organisation's activities.
- Support the creation of groupings to access funding

b) ***Geographical scope***

The Partnership will operate over the Reading Borough Council area, but will work across and beyond administrative boundaries where this facilitates the achievement of key goals.

c) ***Partnership Structure***

The Reading Climate Change Partnership comprises the Executive Board and any associated groups set up and mandated by the Executive Board, to include a wider Reference Group. *The role of the Reference Group will be to:*

- *Report Progress against outcomes*
- *Seek ideas and priorities for action.*

The decision-making body is the Executive Board.

d) Executive Board

- The Executive Board will have a maximum of twelve members. This can be varied by a decision of the Board itself.
- The members comprise a mix of business, statutory, and community members. Membership of the Board is a voluntary position.
- *The Board will commission the development of Job Specifications for the board members.*
- *The Board will initially consist of the following organisational places:*
 - i. *A Large Reading based Business*
 - ii. *A small/medium Reading business*
 - iii. *NHS Berkshire West*
 - iv. *Reading Borough Council - The Executive member responsible for Climate Change*
 - v. *Reading Borough Council - The lead officer responsible for Climate Change*
 - vi. *The Environment Agency (Chair)*
 - vii. *A Community Group representative (Greater Reading Environmental Network)*
 - viii. *A Voluntary Community Sector representative*
 - ix. *The University of Reading*
- Membership of the Executive Board will be reviewed annually

Positions on the RCCP Board, comprise 'organisational places' and 'representative' places.

Organisational places will be selected by their host organisations, having proper regard to the RCCP job/person specification

Representative places (Business, Voluntary and Community sectors) will be nominated through such selection process that the respective sectors decide in agreement with the RCCP Board and having proper regard to the RCCP job/person specification.

RCCP Board Meetings will be held every two months, alternating with the LSP board meetings.

e) Subgroups

The Partnership will set up any subgroups as the need arises. This may include standing ie long term subgroups, and temporary working groups, set up to achieve a time-limited task.

Any group that is set up with the mandate of the Reading Climate Change Partnership will have:

- *A written role and remit, approved by the Partnership*
- *A list of agreed members, with full contact details available*
- *An action plan, on which progress will be reported to the Partnership*

f) Guiding principles for the partnership's operation

The Partnership will work by fostering dialogue and engagement at every level. Specifically it will ensure that there are robust engagement methods in place to enable:

- *the Executive Board and any subgroups, to work effectively together*
- *The Partnership as a whole to engage with all of the other relevant Reading partnerships and groupings, including the LSP*
- *Regular and appropriate two way engagement between all the different elements within the Partnership and also with any other external stakeholders, including for example, relevant agencies and organisations in the Greater Reading area*
- *Regular cross-sectoral dialogue and joint action*

g) Partnership support function

For the first year of its operation, Reading Borough Council have offered to provide administrative support for the partnership.